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Norwich, Friday, March 5, 1909.

BRIDGING THE CONNECTICUT.

The need of a bridge across the Connecticut river between Old Saybrook and Old Lyme is so apparent that no argument is necessary to make the claim clear or the movement for such a public convenience. The old ferry there is wholly inadequate for the business and is as obsolete as the "one-hoss shay" and it does not speak well for the enterprise and progress of the state.

While the pressure being brought to bear for this bridge is mostly from residents east of the river, this is far from being a sectional question, for it is something which concerns all the people of the state, and there is enterprise in it.

The fact that the regular travel is small there, and that the inadequacy of the present ferry shown only on special occasions, should not be wrongly interpreted for that along-shore route is one of the most attractive and pleasant lines of traffic in New England, and with the facilities for making good travel assured the travel would be increased immediately without doubt tenfold.

The commission appointed by Governor Woodruff has reported to the general assembly in favor of building a bridge at this point, and the time has come when there should be no barriers to travel between states, and more particularly between sections of a state. The present facilities for vehicle and foot travel across the river at this point are deplorably inadequate, there being only an antiquated ferry that runs intermittently from sunrise to sundown during the open season. The receipts from this ferry running only a part of the year and notwithstanding its inadequacy and the fact that a large part of the traveling public purposely avoid it, amounted last year to \$3,250.50.

A bridge with toll would be a traveling public would willingly pay, and which could be used at all seasons of the year and all hours of the day, it is conservatively estimated, would more than triple these receipts and provide a sufficient income to operate the bridge and pay for interest charges on the investment which is estimated by the engineers who made the plans for the commission would be about \$400,000.

There is not a river in the shore territory from the New York state line to the Rhode Island, with the exception of the Connecticut river that is not provided with an adequate bridge, and it should be noted that in the shore territory from New Haven to Rhode Island there is a population of over 200,000. It should also be noted that there is not a highway bridge to the Connecticut river in this section than Middletown, which is 27 miles above.

This is an all-state matter, as well as an enterprise of interstate interest and welfare, and it would be for the business advantage and credit of the state to build a bridge there as the commission has recommended.

ACCUMULATING DEFICITS.

The city of Lynn, Mass., is just now furnishing an example of how New England cities are being politically run. The tax collectors have not done their duty for many years and the authorities have expended the tax money whether it was paid or not. The taxes have not been clearly collected for thirty years and the floating indebtedness is now discovered to be \$175,000. As a local paper states it: "At the close of each year, there remained the inevitable sum to be added to the deficit. Thus the evil flourished. With failure to collect all the taxes, the burden of the unvarying spending of every cent of the tax levy, in anticipation of its collection. Administration after administration has been content for year after year not only to tolerate this mischievous state of affairs, but in some instances, may have also sought to turn it to personal advantage, by trying to make the fact appear that the tax rate was being kept down."

How natural this is. How quietly city indebtedness is increased without the consent or knowledge of the taxpayers in most New England cities. Lynn is not an exception but really represents the fashion which is there just now being called a "rotten system."

And the people who neglect to pay their taxes, to say nothing of those who play the part of deliberate cheats, what do they care about the burden they place upon their fellow townsmen. There is no law which makes them pay for taxes dodged. Successful evasion seems to be no crime.

It is not surprising that Lynn is getting where it is thinking that government by taxation is better and more desirable than the present system. Should it prove to be the present methods of city government will be on the wane. Less politics and better business policies are looking more and more inviting to all intelligent citizens.

THE PEOPLE'S WASTED MILLIONS.

The waste of public money through the naval channel is a living theme and it certainly falls for reform. The naval department has come to be regarded as the department of greatest deficiency and greatest leakage. The New York Evening Post says upon this subject:

"The navy department has long been the Cinderella of the official family. Others secure and retain the services of able men. The navy, on the contrary, either never gets men of first-rate capacity, or, if it does get them, loses them in a brief time. During the past seven years it has had six secretaries, and is about to have a seventh. How long the latter may stay in office is problematic. The precedents point to his more or less speedy change to another post in the government service. Yet at no time has the administration of the navy been so much the object of public criticism. An article in the present issue that the waste of public funds through the naval budget is some \$10,000,000 per annum. Granted that the writer is wrong by 75 per cent, there would yet remain a waste of ten million of dollars, through faulty distribution of

funds, their unnecessary multiplication and their hitherto extravagant internal organization. Today, if ever, the navy stands in need of a firm and experienced hand in charge of its affairs. Yet the present helmsman, who has shown himself particularly wise, experienced and courageous, is to be replaced by a gentleman whose chief recommendation, rumor hints, is that he must have a place in the cabinet, in order that the senior senator from Massachusetts may not lose in political prestige."

The friends of Governor Tilley hope that this agitation will be kept up until the naval affairs are conducted right and he is fully vindicated.

WOULD HOLD UP POLITICAL FREEDOM.

The men who seek public offices and are anxious to get and to hold them in all parts of the country are careless of tradition and history and the feelings of their constituents, and in their role of good fellows they are too ready to change the name of streets and parks as a means of popularity and preference regardless of what is being lost by their conduct.

This is especially true in Massachusetts and New York. There is before the Massachusetts legislature a bill to restrain the city fathers in that state from abandoning old names of streets, parks and places, for new names. The reason for this bill the Salem News says is because of certain schemes in Boston engineered by cheap politicians to change honored names, in order that a common councilman or an alderman might be recognized in street or square or park, penmanship, or so cheap honor can be conferred upon cheap men.

Recognizing the importance of this Massachusetts measure, the New York Sun says:

"In Boston and other Massachusetts cities, as in this city, there are politicians in city office who, profoundly ignorant of the historical meaning and value of old names of streets, squares, parks and so on, are always trying to change them to compliment or oblige somebody. A law for that protection of street names and against the barbarism and ignorance of aldermen is needed in this state."

The Bulletin feels thankful that Connecticut aldermen and councilmen have not yet shown up in this political realm of ignorance, selfishness and barbarism, but to be forewarned is to be armed, and perhaps a law of this kind would be an approvable measure in every state of the union.

THE MODEL TENEMENT.

A feature of the model tenements which Mrs. Vanderbilt is to provide for tuberculosis sufferers in New York will be the outside stairways. These will eliminate the common hallways, which with their dirt and darkness are most fertile breeding places for disease. Dr. Shively believes that such stairways will eventually come into general use in New York. They have long been popular in southern countries and he holds that the climate of New York is really semi-tropical.

Waterbury, Conn. What Dr. Shively pronounces a model tenement will be repudiated by the well-to-do class of tenants. What style is there to an outside stairway? It is neither healthy, as are bare floors and lower temperatures and simpler food, but with a surprisingly large number of people health has to take second place to style, both in dress and in house building and furnishing.

There is no doubt that a tenement built on a wooden house, or the log cabin with its airy spaces, healthier than the average wooden house, but there is no probability that the race will ever go back to them. What the people are looking for are evidences of gentility and style, and they let health take care of itself.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Happy thought for today: The clown burked his eyebrows first but not for beauty.

The long municipal campaigns in western cities are now being referred to as "political marathons."

A man with two appendices has been discovered by the doctors. That balances the man with two hearts.

Some of the rankest democratic papers now pipe up and say that the country has lost a great president. It is about time for the small boy's pocket to be full of marbles and his mind more on the game than on his books.

Senator Bailey of Texas, one of the dependables of the Standard Oil company, gave a kick at Roosevelt as he retired.

The man who does not set more advice at home than he can find use for is likely to act upon advice offered elsewhere.

Six-sevenths of the new foreign business houses established in China last year represent Japan, and they numbered 677.

One of these days the telephone central exchanges may invent a pleasant substitute for that old counter-irritant—"The line's busy."

It is not likely that President Taft thinks that he is worth any more to the country than was Roosevelt, if he does get \$25,000 more a year salary.

The auditorium in Kansas City was big enough to hold the people who wanted to hear Cyprian Smith, the greatest evangelist of the present age.

It is decided that President Taft will spend his summers in Connecticut by the Sound. It is harder for him to get to the north shore of Massachusetts.

If President Taft doesn't care what the unjust critics say of him, it is more than probable that the regular Americans will make him sit up and take notice.

Pointedly Bigelow has again shown that he does not know "when to open and when to shut," and in this respect his record would prove to be a failure as a claim.

There will be no paper famine if good newspaper can be made out of cornstalks, but the future product of the press must not be left where the crows can get at it.

The queen of Siam has a thirty-thousand dollar tumble all bellegged with precious stones, and the tumble that sells two for a nickel is most practical and profitable.

Miss Larned's Missionary Papers

NO. IV.

Dr. Justus H. and Calista Holman Vinton.

Among those present at that memorable memorial service in Ashford in 1821 were two whose names became familiar in later years in connection with that eminently successful mission work among the Karens of Burmah. Although not natives of Windham county, Dr. and Mrs. Vinton became early members of Baptist churches in Ashford and Woodstock, and were thus brought into fellowship with all the Baptist churches of the county.

Justus H. Vinton was born in Willington, Tolland county, in 1806, but in 1825 we find him a member and eventually the pastor of the Baptist church in Ashford, engaging in evangelistic work, we may infer, with Benjamin N. Skinner. And it was about the same time that his future wife, Calista Holman of Union, was favored with that remarkable religious experience, endowing her as it seemed with special powers of vision. In 1827, when about fifteen years of age, she seemed a rapid decline and was thought to be near her end. Yielding herself wholly to the will of God, for life or death, she earnestly desired to become a member of this visible church and receive baptism in what she believed the divinely appointed method. In her weak condition it seemed a great imprudence to go down into the water, but her recovery seemed so hoped for, that her friends yielded assent and in chitty Brook she was carried to the adjacent Grow, and received into the fellowship of the West Woodstock Baptist church. Elder Grow remarked in giving her the element:

"This is our sister, first communion and will probably be her last. We now receive her into the church militant; she will soon be in the church triumphant." But many years of faithful service were to intervene. Renewal of physical life came with the spiritual baptism—whether the shock quickened with action, whether the result might be attributed to "mind cure" or "faith cure" or direct answer to prayer, immediate improvement and subsequent recovery are abundantly substantiated by the facts. This renewed life to the highest goal became her supreme object. She taught school to gain means for purchasing her own education, alternating with her school teaching and her own teaching with schooling. She acquired a much more thorough education than most women of that day, and decided to devote it to mission work. Rev. Mr. Vinton meantime was working his way through school and college and had also decided to enter the Burmese mission. In the Hamilton theological and literary institute they found opportunity for studying the Karen language and thus were exceptionally fitted for their work. They were married in April 1834, ordained and sent out to Maulm mission by the Baptist union, July 3, 1834.

Arriving at Maulman, after four months' voyage, they were soon actively at work among the Karens, touring through the villages and jungles, often separately, that they might reach a greater number. Schools and preaching services were instituted, and many of these tractations were brought into the fold. After four years of most effective service, Mr. and Mrs. Vinton returned to America, bringing with them two small Karen boys, whose winning ways and simple faith had won the hearts of their missionaries. They were married in April 1834, ordained and sent out to Maulm mission by the Baptist union, July 3, 1834.

Few missionaries have been privileged to witness such results of their labor in reaching and converting heathen lands, and inciting sympathy and co-operation at home.

Dr. and Mrs. Vinton returned to Burmah in 1839, and during the war with England gave most helpful aid to the persecuted Karens, and were most active and efficient in re-establishing church and social affairs after the return of peace. Mrs. Vinton established and carried on a large and very successful high school in the vicinity of Rangoon. Dr. Vinton died at his post in 1853, and Mrs. Vinton and her son, Brainerd, continued in the field. A letter acknowledging a gift from the Ashford association enables us to receive from her own hand a vivid picture of the outward life and inner purposes of this devoted Christian woman in her closing years, and it is a great privilege to be able thus to make it more widely known and kept in memory.

Mrs. Vinton's Letter.

Rangoon, April 25, 1862. My Dear Bro. Walker: It gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to see that I am still remembered by the dear Ashford association. That association was formed the year before I was converted. The delegates—Dea. Corbin and Col. Crawford—stopped at our house on their way, and prayed for me under deep conviction. Never till my latest day shall I forget that scene.

Monarchical?

Among the reviewers of the Roosevelt regime, who nearly all of the hustling March magazines contain, is Prof. Harry Thurston Peck. He is thankful there is not to be a third term for him, for he obtains.

"Had Mr. Roosevelt been elected again, instead of Mr. Taft, we should see, at the end of another four years, something very like a real court in Washington. Already there have been introduced forms and usages which were unknown before, but which are essentially monarchical. Many other changes have been effected of a social character which have not been publicly commented upon, but which in private conversation have been noted throughout the country."

Why was not Professor Peck more specific? He has aroused one's curiosity only to hide behind a curtain of "inference and reserve. Monarchical" in some ways, perhaps. Yet Jack Abernathy of Oklahoma, who catches

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exp. Ever since I became a Christian I have loved the Ashford Association, and next to the church in West Woodstock, felt it to be my home. But can we ever forget our meetings while at home in 1848 and 1849? Can we forget the effort for Frank's chapel?

It is four years today since the remains of my dear companion were laid in the silent grave. I have just been with the school children to visit the quiet spot. What shall I say of those four years? Shall I complain of loneliness or hard work, of unceasing care and toil? No, I have not been alone. "Lo I am with you," has been verified more than in any former period. God has been with me—his arm has supported me. He has given me much work to do and enabled me to do it. Glory to his name. As to cares and trials—they have driven me to the throne of grace and I see and feel they have worked for my good. They have driven me from all trust in human aid and caused me to look alone to God for help. And now He has permitted me to live to see my son return—to see him reach his life enter upon a career of stationary labor—to see the Karens gathering around them asking advice and counsel as they did 28 years ago of Mr. Vinton. Should I not be thankful? May I not look up and say, "Now lettest thy servant depart?" Although worn out and tired in the work, I feel that I have been a blessing to the school children, and have enjoyed school teaching better than now. And my travels in the jungle for the past three months have done me good in soul and body. It does me good to get out among the people—to visit the churches and endeavor to point sinners to the Lamb of God. I never complete a missionary's work. I only wonder why God ever permitted me to enjoy such a privilege. You speak of my burdens, sacrifices and personal inconveniences. I know nothing of them compared to the luxury of doing good. And that luxury does not consist alone in pointing sinners to the Lamb of God. True that is the greatest of all, but to give a dose of medicine, to nurse the sick, to relieve the distressed, speak kindly to the afflicted, instruct the ignorant, impart comfort to those who are in pain to the object. If not, where is the truth of the words of our Saviour, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." I do not ask your sympathy. I ask your co-operation. Not that I am expecting long to occupy this field. No, I feel that my work is almost done. I have held out so long, but may I not ask you to be co-workers with my son and wife? Will you not continue to do for them what you have done for me? I trust they will be hard working faithful missionaries, and as such worthy of your confidence. Brainerd preached his first sermon in Frank's chapel in Karen last Sabbath. He had resided in Karen several times in the jungle. He is still traveling, though the weather is getting very hot. He regrets exceedingly that he cannot visit all the churches of his labor, but it is our motto to do all we can, and leave the rest with God.

And now, in conclusion, allow me, through you as the organ of the association, to thank them for what they have done, and ask that they may send me yearly such a letter as I have just received. Yours, in Christian bonds, CALISTA H. VINTON.

In hope of regaining health, Mrs. Vinton made a parting visit to friends in England and America, and was enabled to make many addresses, not only to her friends in New England but in some of the western states and Canada. The presence and words of this white haired woman after so many years of earnest labor made a deep impression upon all who heard her, and she died at Rangoon in December, 1862—leaving a record surpassed by few women missionaries. Her work among her much loved Karens was carried on by her daughter, Calista, Mrs. Luther, and the son mentioned in her letter.

Rev. J. Brainerd Vinton was born in Burmah, educated mostly in this country. While pursuing his studies he united with the West Woodstock Baptist church, so loved by his mother, and retained his membership many years. He was graduated from Hamilton Theological institute, married the daughter of another veteran missionary, Dr. J. M. Harwell. He with his wife and sister continued the work among the Karens until compelled by ill health to return to this country.

Rev. L. E. Vinton, son of Rev. J. Brainerd and Harwell Vinton, was ordained in the First Baptist church, Charlestown, Mass., June, 1909, with special reference to engaging in missionary work in Burmah. Eleven missionaries have gone forth from the families of his connection. A sister of Dr. Justus H. Vinton, Mrs. Miranda Vinton Harris, aided him in his labors, 1841-1854. Descendants of these pioneers are carrying on mission work in various fields.

ELLLEN D. LARNED.

will wolves with his bare hands, dined at the White house yesterday.—Springfield Republican.

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Expensiveness of War. Some conception of the expensiveness of war may be gathered when it is known that it costs as much money to fire a 12-inch gun as an editor makes in two years.—Newark News.

As Elliot Calls It. Some call it insufferable snobbishness. President Elliot, with fine tact, calls it "the segregation of the rich."—Boston Transcript.

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